

FOI DOF/2026-0338

Request

1. Under the Freedom of Information act 2009 I wish to know how many Staff Officer vacancies there currently are in Derry, with a breakdown of department.
2. And how many SO posts in Derry are currently being filled by temporary promotions.

DoF response

I can confirm the department holds some of the information requested.

1. Details of the total vacancies in each department is not held centrally by Department of Finance. Each Civil Service department is responsible for managing its resources – both financial and staff. Each department determines its individual workforce needs and is responsible for ensuring that any additional staffing resources are affordable. When a department identifies a vacancy that needs filled, the request is referred to NICSHR to initiate the process to fill the post. NICSHR liaises with all departments on an ongoing basis to seek to prioritise recruitment activity within allocated financial and staff resources.

As at the end of May 2026, (the most recent figures available at time of the request), NICSHR was managing a caseload of 26 general service Staff Officer vacancies and no non-general service Staff Officer vacancies in Derry. The breakdown by Department is shown in the table below.

Department	Total
DAERA	4
DE	6
DfC	11
DoF	3
DoH	1
DoJ	1
Grand Total	26

2. As noted above the Department of Finance (DoF) does not hold a central record of Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) staff establishment figures.

Responsibility for determining and managing staffing levels or the number of posts rests with each individual NICS Department.

While the management and recording of temporary promotions is also a matter for individual business areas within Departments. DOF does centrally hold the number of NICS staff on temporary promotion. It is worth adding that temporary promotions may be used for a range of business purposes, including covering vacant posts or supporting specific exercises.

As at the end of May 2026, (the most recent information available at the date of the request), a total of **37** NICS staff were on temporary promotion to Staff Officer, or analogous grades, with a recorded office location within the City of Derry/ Londonderry.